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SENATE BILL 6193

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Regala, Keiser, Eide, Prentice, Rasmussen, Jacobsen, Fairley, McAuliffe, Fraser, Brown, Kline, Kohl-Welles, Parlette and Shin

Read first time 01/09/2006. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to health professions work force supply and  
2 demographics information; adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW;  
3 creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that people of color  
6 experience significant disparities from the general population in  
7 education, employment, healthy living conditions, access to health  
8 care, and other social determinants of health. The legislature intends  
9 to address barriers to gender-appropriate and culturally and  
10 linguistically appropriate health care and health education materials,  
11 including increasing the number of female and minority health care  
12 providers, through expanded recruiting, education, and retention  
13 programs. The legislature finds that before developing a work force  
14 that is representative of the diversity of the state's population,  
15 relevant and accurate data on health care professionals, students in  
16 health care professions, and recipients of health services must first  
17 be collected.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        (1) Every two years the department, in collaboration with the work  
4 force training and education coordinating board, shall distribute  
5 survey questions for the purpose of gathering data related to work  
6 force supply and demographics to all health care providers who are  
7 credentialed by a disciplining authority under RCW 18.130.040 and to  
8 any individual enrolled in training to become credentialed by a  
9 disciplining authority under RCW 18.130.040.

10        (2)(a) At a minimum, the survey shall include questions related to  
11 understanding the following characteristics of the health care work  
12 force:

13            (i) Specialty;

14            (ii) Age;

15            (iii) Race or ethnicity;

16            (iv) Hours in practice per week;

17            (v) Practice statistics, including hours spent in direct patient  
18 care;

19            (vi) Zip code of the location where the provider practices;

20            (vii) Years in practice, years in practice in Washington, and  
21 location and years in practice in other jurisdictions; and

22            (viii) Type of facility where the provider practices.

23        (b) The department may approve proposals for the distribution of  
24 surveys containing additional data elements to selected health care  
25 professions if it determines that there is a legitimate research  
26 interest in obtaining the information, the additional burden on members  
27 of the health care profession is not unreasonable, the effect on survey  
28 response rates is not unreasonable, and there are funds available. The  
29 department may accept funds through contracts, grants, donations, or  
30 other forms of contributions to support more detailed surveys.

31        (3) The department must make a public data set available that meets  
32 the confidentiality requirements of subsection (5) of this section.  
33 The department may respond to requests for data and other information  
34 from the registry for special studies and analysis pursuant to a data-  
35 sharing agreement. Any use of the data by the requester must comply  
36 with the confidentiality requirements of subsection (5) of this  
37 section. The department may require requesters to pay any or all of

1 the reasonable costs associated with such requests that may be  
2 approved.

3 (4) The failure to complete or return the survey may not be grounds  
4 to withhold, fail to renew, or revoke a license or to impose any other  
5 disciplinary sanctions against a credentialed health care provider.

6 (5) The department shall process the surveys that it receives in  
7 such a way that the identity of individual providers remains anonymous.  
8 Data elements related to the identification of individual providers  
9 shall be confidential and shall be exempt from chapter 42.56 RCW,  
10 except as provided in a data-sharing agreement approved by the  
11 department pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2006.

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